

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Art Unit :
Examiner :
Serial No. : **Customer No. 35811**
Filed : Herewith
Inventor : Michael Arnouse
Title : APPARATUS, SYSTEM AND
: METHOD FOR AIRCRAFT
: SECURITY
Docket No.: 1232-R-03
Dated: August 18, 2003

**PETITION TO MAKE SPECIAL
UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.102(d)
INVENTIONS FOR COUNTERING TERRORISM**

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Applicant hereby petitions under 37 CFR § 1.102(d) and MPEP 708.02(XI) that the subject application be accorded special status and advanced in order of examination on the basis of inventions for countering terrorism.

The requirements of 37 C.F.R. § 1.102(d) and MPEP 708.02(XI) are fulfilled as follows:

1. A check for the appropriate fee \$130.00 as set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.17(h) is attached hereto.
2. The patent application presents Claims 1-58 drawn to a single invention. In the event that restriction is required, an election will be made without traverse.
3. An Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) is filed concurrently herewith. The listed publications, copies enclosed, represent the results of the search.
4. A statement explaining how the invention contributes to countering terrorism follows.

The airline industry has, for over half a century, transported large volumes of travelers on a daily basis to destinations around the world. One of the primary concerns of the airline industry during this time period has been to maintain the safety of its passengers and aircraft. Over time, the general public, and most airline passengers, developed a positive feeling for airline safety. Statistically speaking, air travel has been considered safer than other presumably safe activities; for example, routinely there have been more people involved in auto or gun related accidents or fires than people involved in aircraft related accidents. The occasional hijacking was not considered a major threat, as most ended without passenger casualties or damage to aircraft.

The attitude toward air travel forever changed on the morning of Sep. 11, 2001, when the World Trade Center in New York, NY and the Pentagon in Washington, DC. became the objects of a terrorist attack of previously unimaginable proportions. On that day, hijackers took over control of four separate aircraft and then managed to personally fly three of those as weapons of mass murder into the buildings, destroying the buildings, surrounding buildings and all three aircraft. The fourth plane crashed into an open field just outside of Pittsburgh following a valiant struggle by passengers to recapture the plane. Tragically, all passengers on all four planes and several thousand people on the ground died that day.

Following the aftermath of “911”, there is now a greater emphasis than ever before on improving airline security to try to prevent hijacking of aircraft. Much of the efforts have been directed to reducing the chances that a successful hijacking may occur, such as by instituting more stringent searches at check-in, by placing armed marshall on flights and by better securing the door separating the passenger and cockpit areas of the plane. These efforts, however, have

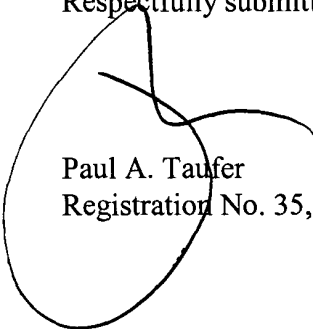
done little to address the source of the problem, which is hijackers taking over control of an aircraft.

In accordance with the present invention, an embodiment comprises a security mechanism for identifying individuals, so as to restrict operation to only those authorized, such as to persons authorized to fly a given aircraft. The security mechanism comprises a controller operable by a user; one or more security devices to identify the user attempting to operate the controller; and one or more monitoring devices to determine whether or not the user identified is authorized to operate the controller.

Applicants respectfully submit that all requirements called for by the applicable rules have been fulfilled. Applicants respectfully request early favorable action on this Petition.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Petition to Make Special be granted, and that the application be taken out of turn for examination. Applicants also respectfully request an early consideration and allowance of the solicited claims.

Respectfully submitted,



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